

Exhibit A

Stipulation

**IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE**

In re:

BIG LOTS, INC., *et al.*,

Debtors.¹

Chapter 11

Case No. 24-11967 (JKS)

(Jointly Administered)

Re: D.I. 1308

**STIPULATION GRANTING CALITEX, LLC AND VANYARMOUTH, LLC RELIEF
FROM THE AUTOMATIC STAY**

Big Lots, Inc. and its affiliates that are debtors and debtors in possession in the above-captioned chapter 11 cases (collectively, the “**Debtors**”) and Calitex, LLC and Vanyarmouth, LLC (the “**Movants**,” and, together with the Debtors, the “**Parties**”) hereby enter into the following stipulation (the “**Stipulation**”) granting relief from the automatic stay provisions of the Bankruptcy Code to allow (but not require) the Parties to continue the Appeal (as defined below) to resolution, as well as to allow the Parties to continue the underlying Civil Action (as defined below).

¹ The debtors and debtors in possession in these chapter 11 cases, along with the last four digits of their respective employer identification numbers, are as follows: Great Basin, LLC (6158); Big Lots, Inc. (9097); Big Lots Management, LLC (7948); Consolidated Property Holdings, LLC (0984); Broyhill LLC (7868); Big Lots Stores - PNS, LLC (5262); Big Lots Stores, LLC (6811); BLBO Tenant, LLC (0552); Big Lots Stores - CSR, LLC (6182); CSC Distribution LLC (8785); Closeout Distribution, LLC (0309); Durant DC, LLC (2033); AVDC, LLC (3400); GAFDC LLC (8673); PAFDC LLC (2377); WAFDC, LLC (6163); INFDC, LLC (2820); Big Lots eCommerce LLC (9612); and Big Lots F&S, LLC (3277). The address of the debtors’ corporate headquarters is 4900 E. Dublin-Granville Road, Columbus, OH 43081.

RECITALS

WHEREAS, the Court has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to the provisions of 28 U.S.C. §§ 157 and 1334. This matter constitutes a core proceeding within the meaning of 28 U.S.C. § 157(b)(2)(G). Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1409;

WHEREAS, the statutory basis for the relief requested herein is 11 U.S.C. § 362 and Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure 4001(d);

WHEREAS, on September 9, 2024 (the “**Petition Date**”), the Debtors filed voluntary petitions under chapter 11 of title 11 of the United States Code (the “**Bankruptcy Code**”) with the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware (the “**Court**”), thereby commencing the above-captioned chapter 11 cases (the “**Chapter 11 Cases**”);

WHEREAS, prior to the Petition Date, Debtor Big Lots Stores, LLC filed suit in the 116th Civil District Court of Dallas County, Texas, Cause No. DC-23-00832, against Movants (the “**Civil Action**”);

WHEREAS, prior to the Petition Date, the 116th Civil District Court of Dallas County, Texas reached a judgment in the Civil Action in favor of Debtor Big Lots Stores, LLC;

WHEREAS, prior to the Petition Date, Movants filed a notice of appeal in the Texas Fifth Court of Appeals (the “**Appeal**”);

WHEREAS, the Appeal has been captioned and docketed as *Calitex, LLC and Vanyarmouth, LLC, Appellants v. Big Lots Stores, LLC*, No. 05-24-00054-CV, in the Texas Fifth Court of Appeals;

WHEREAS, on December 5, 2024, the Movants filed that certain *Motion of Calitex, LLC and Vanyarmouth, LLC for Order Granting Relief from the Automatic Stay* [D.I. 1308] (the “**Calitex, LLC and Vanyarmouth, LLC Lift Stay Motion**”);

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Calitex, LLC and Vanyarmouth, LLC Lift Stay Motion, the Movants request that the automatic stay provisions of the Bankruptcy Code be lifted for the Appeal and the Civil Action;

WHEREAS, Debtor Big Lots Stores, LLC is the plaintiff in the Civil Action, and thus any damages confirmed in the Appeal will be for the benefit of the Debtors' estate; and

WHEREAS, the Parties have agreed, subject to approval of the Court of this Stipulation, to permit relief from the automatic stay for the reasons set forth herein and subject to the terms and conditions set forth below.

NOW, THEREFORE, upon the foregoing recitals, which are incorporated as though fully set forth herein, it is hereby stipulated and agreed, by and among the Parties, that:

1. This Stipulation shall have no force or effect unless and until approved by the Court (the date of such approval, the "**Effective Date**").

2. Upon the Effective Date, the automatic stay provisions of the Bankruptcy Court shall be lifted as to the claims asserted in the Civil Action and the related Appeal; *provided*, that, except as otherwise set forth herein, all other provisions of the automatic stay provisions of the Bankruptcy Code, including, without limitation, those provisions prohibiting the commencement or continuation of any judicial proceeding against the Debtors that was or could have been commenced prior to the Petition Date, and those provisions prohibiting any act to collect, assess, or recover a claim that arose prior to the Petition Date from the respective estates and/or assets or property of any of the Debtors, shall remain in full force and effect.

3. The Stipulation hereby resolves the Calitex, LLC and Vanyarmouth, LLC Lift Stay Motion.

4. Nothing contained in this Stipulation is intended to be or shall be construed as (i) a waiver by the Debtors of any claims or causes of action that may exist against any creditor or interest holder, (ii) an approval, assumption, or rejection of any agreement, contract, program, policy, or lease under section 365 of the Bankruptcy Code, or (iii) a waiver by the Debtors of their right to object to any and all proofs of claim relating to any action that have been or may be filed by the Claimant in the chapter 11 cases of the Debtors. The limited relief set forth in this Stipulation shall not be construed as an admission of liability by the Debtors or their affiliates regarding any claim or cause of action arising from or in relation to the Civil Action or any other matter.

5. Nothing contained in this Stipulation will prevent Movants from seeking further relief from the automatic stay in connection with the Civil Action and the related Appeal or otherwise.

6. Nothing contained in this Stipulation shall limit or affect the Movants' rights under any proofs of claim (the "Claims") that Movants have filed or may hereafter file, and the Debtors and their estates retain the right to raise any and all defenses to the Claims.

7. Nothing contained in this Stipulation shall limit or affect the Movants' rights otherwise available to it regarding the Property and the Lease, including with respect to assumption and assignment, adequate protection and cure, and the Debtors and their estates retain all rights with respect thereto.

8. In the event that the terms of this Stipulation are not approved by the Bankruptcy Court, it shall be null and void and have no force or effect, and the Parties agree that, in such circumstances, this Stipulation (including statements in the Recitals) shall be of no evidentiary value whatsoever in any proceedings.

9. Notwithstanding the applicability of Bankruptcy Rule 4001(a)(3), the terms and provisions of this Stipulation immediately shall be effective and enforceable upon the Effective Date and shall thereafter be binding upon the Parties hereto and their respective affiliates and successors, their successors in interest, and assigns, including, without limitation, any trustee in bankruptcy.

10. This Stipulation shall constitute the entire agreement and understanding of the Parties relating to the subject matter hereof and supersedes all prior agreements and understandings relating to the subject matter hereof.

11. Each of the undersigned who executes this Stipulation by or on behalf of a Party represents and warrants that he or she has been duly authorized and empowered to execute and deliver this Stipulation on behalf of such Party. The Parties each declare that their respective decisions in executing this Stipulation are not predicated on or influenced by any declaration or representation of the other Party, except as otherwise expressly provided herein.

12. This Stipulation may be executed in one or more counterparts and by electronic copy, each of which will be considered effective as an original signature.

13. This Stipulation shall not be modified, altered, amended, or vacated without the written consent of both Parties hereto or by order of the Court.

14. This Stipulation shall be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the laws of the State of Delaware, except to the extent that the Bankruptcy Code applies, without regard to principles of conflicts of law that would require the application of laws of another jurisdiction.

15. The Court shall retain jurisdiction to resolve any disputes or controversies arising from this Stipulation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, and in agreement herewith, by and through the undersigned counsel, the Parties have executed and delivered this Stipulation as of the day first set forth below.

Dated: December 12, 2024

THE LAW OFFICE OF JAMES
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